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Editorial Annual Address.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-TWO has been a remarkable year, and it is not improbable that it will live in the memory of many now rising into life should the days of their years be prolonged to "threescore and ten," as a year of intended gladness which became overshadowed by the deepest gloom.

This year another Exhibition of the Works of Art and Industry of all Nations was to be opened on a more extended scale—another daughter of the Queen, an amiable and beloved Princess, was to be married—and the Prince of Wales would attain his majority. Events like these, under ordinary circumstances, would have been celebrated with rejoicing; but the lamented decease of the great and good Prince Consort, who was expected to take a prominent part in these proceedings, in the last month of the past year, threw an overshadowing gloom over these interesting events.

And then, the blockade of the southern ports of America, in consequence of war between the States, preventing the supply of raw cotton for our manufactures, stopped the mills, and threw out of employment hundreds of thousands of industrious workmen. And so far has this calamity extended, that, at the time these remarks are published, it is expected half a million of our countrymen in Lancashire and its vicinity will be receiving public or parochial relief.

These distressing events excited a great amount of sympathy in the whole nation—sympathy for our beloved Queen, bereaved of the best of husbands, and the royal children bereft of the best of fathers, as well as sympathy for the myriads of patient sufferers, who had been brought into a state of unprecedented destitution by no fault of their own.

May the "Blessed God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation," comfort the heart of our widowed Sovereign; and soon, very soon, in his kind providence, open the way for hands willing to work to be again employed in honest labour!

But we must now remind our readers that 1862 brought round the two-hundredth anniversary of the expulsion of about Two Thousand Ministers from the Established Church of England. It was only natural that the Nonconformists of the present day should commemorate that memorable event, and thus do honour to the memory of those noble-minded men who chose rather